

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

CENTRAL

AMHERST (William W. Seay)
Dry conditions continue with spotty rain showers providing temporary relief. Some livestock producers continue to supplement pastures with hay, depleting an already short winter feed supply. Many livestock producers have begun to sell off cattle to meet the feed supply.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)
Another very dry week has further deteriorated the condition of all crops. Pastures and hayfields are once again browning out and all growth has slowed or stopped. Soybeans are wilting in many places. Double-crop beans in many fields have very little growth and few flowers or pods. Some full-season soybean fields have managed to flower and set close to average yields if the pods are counted. Just how well those pods fill out with very little moisture remains to be seen. Corn earworm activity has been much higher than in the last few years. Many fields have been sprayed. Corn silage harvest is essentially over. The corn dried down 2-3 weeks earlier than usual this year. Some corn for grain has already been picked at high-moisture due to excessive stalk rot and lodging. Corn for grain harvest will begin earlier than normal as many farmers fear adverse weather will flatten their crop.

SOUTHERN

HENRY (Melanie Barrow)
Henry County got about 6 inches of rain early Saturday morning. The storm lasted about 3 1/2 hours. The topsoil was saturated for 12 hours following the storm.

WESTERN

HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)
Very spotty thunder showers with quick downpours have helped a limited area in the County. Water in the streams is at critically low levels. The chief activity for the week is the Highland County Fair.

ROCKBRIDGE (Jon Repair)
Recent rains have been extremely helpful to begin some pasture growth. However, excessive heat that is predicted for this week could continue a negative effect on forage growth. Silage harvest is nearing completion with yields off anywhere from 15-50%. Small grain seed has been hard to locate for fall planting. Producers are looking at alternatives particularly to replace cereal rye.



USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office
P. O. Box 1659
Richmond, VA 23218-1659
Phone (804) 771-2493
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

Address Service Requested



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office
P.O. Box 1659
Richmond, VA 23218-1659
Phone (804) 771-2493
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

WEATHER
&
CROPS



Week of: Aug. 27 – Sep. 2, 2007 Number: 26 Released: Sep. 4, 2007

CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 4, 2007

Dry conditions continued in the Commonwealth for the week ending September 2. Days suitable for field work were 6.5. Topsoil moisture was generally short. Pasture and hay fields were in need of rain. Corn silage harvest was nearing completion in some counties. Some corn for grain has been picked at high-moisture due to excessive stalk rot and lodging. Soybeans were wilting in many fields. Soybean producers continued to scout for corn earworm and to spray some fields that reached threshold. Cotton conditions continued to decline. Late vegetable harvest continued. Summer tomato harvest was over and the fall harvest has started. Other activities this week include bushhogging, hay making and preparing equipment for cotton and peanut harvest.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
September 2, 2007	21	43	35	1
August 26, 2007	25	36	36	3
August 19, 2007	31	46	20	3
August 12, 2007	27	46	27	0
August 5, 2007	28	42	29	1

The Census Is Coming!

IN THIS REPORT:	
Crop Condition Percent	pg 2
Crop Progress Percent, with comparisons	pg 2
Weather Summary Table	pg 3
Reporter Comments by County	pg 3, 4

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	25	28	34	13	0
Livestock	1	8	37	45	9
Other Hay	35	23	36	6	0
Alfalfa Hay	25	15	47	13	0
Corn	23	38	28	11	0
Soybeans	11	26	43	18	2
Flue-Cured Tobacco	1	4	49	46	0
Burley Tobacco	6	20	36	25	13
Dark Fire-Cured Tobacco	0	60	40	0	0
Peanuts	0	23	43	26	8
Cotton	0	38	41	21	0
All Apples	20	20	39	21	0
Grapes	0	7	21	72	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Dough	97	87	93	93
Corn Dent	88	69	79	77
Corn Mature	60	23	49	49
Corn Silage	56	41	56	51
Soybeans Blooming	97	87	97	97
Soybeans Setting Pods	89	67	91	86
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	2	NA	7	5
Tobacco, Flue-Cured Harvested	45	40	39	42
Tobacco, Burley Harvested	17	10	28	26
Cotton Bolls Opening	50	33	46	46
Fall Apples Harvested	20	NA	24	30

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 2, 2007													
City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Sep. 1	Mar. 1 to Sep. 1 normal *	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	85	66	88	59	76	4	3212	3009	0.52	0.03	- 0.08	27.53	-2.07
Norfolk	83	70	88	65	76	0	3499	3311	0.08	0.00	NA	24.26	-8.08
Richmond	87	68	91	62	77	2	3559	3255	0.24	0.00	NA	29.07	-1.21
Roanoke	89	70	93	63	79	6	3529	NA	0.78	0.01	-0.11	20.10	-9.45
Wash/Dulles	87	67	88	59	77	4	3248	NA	0.00	0.00	NA	17.67	- 10.83

1/ Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86⁰) + daily minimum (50⁰))/2-50⁰; where 86⁰ is used if the maximum exceeds 86⁰ and 50⁰ is used if the minimum falls below 50⁰.
* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>.
N.A. = not available. T = trace. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

Spraying for corn earworms in soybeans. Summer tomato harvest is over and the fall harvest has started. Corn harvest should start the end of next week. Farmers are ordering seed for the fall wheat and barley crops. Acreage will probably increase significantly over last year due to higher prices, poor corn yields and the short corn harvest season, this will allow more time for the fall wheat land preparation and the farmers need the money.

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Corn harvest has begun with reported yields at 15-90 bushels per acre. Corn earworm pressure has been very heavy in soybeans this year, and most acreage has been treated. Some acreage has been treated twice. Rainfall a few weeks earlier improved soybean yield potential, but more rain is needed now to fill developing pods as soil moisture is drying out quickly. Some hay was cut during the week. Other activities for the week included small grain seed cleaning in preparation for fall planting.

KING GEORGE (Regina Prunty)

Soil conditions are drying out again. Corn is maturing. Some pastures have regrowth from the rain in mid-August.

MIDDLESEX (Moore)

There has been some good rain the past two weeks and things look a lot better. Soybeans, especially DC beans, have great potential, but still need timely rains from here on. Insecticide treatments for corn earworm have been the major activity of the week. Many producers sprayed every acre. There are some fields that will need to be treated a second time.

Corn harvest is beginning. Yields are about 50% of average. Drydown is slow due to the recent rains. Pastures and hay are

(Eastern continued)

greening back up and haymakers may make another cutting this summer. Farm activities include corn harvest, CEW applications, equipment repair, bushhogging, soybean scouting, hay making, and small grain decision making.

NORTHUMBERLAND (Matt Lewis)

Conditions are becoming dry again without significant rain in the last week or so. Soybeans have made good use of previous rains and most are now setting pods; more rain is needed to maintain yield potential. Most of the soybean crop was sprayed last week for corn earworm. Corn harvest has begun. The highest yields so far have been 85 bushels/acre on a whole-field basis.

SOUTHWESTERN

LEE (Harold Jerrell)

No measurable rainfall was recorded during August. Temperatures were in the low 90's for most of the month.

MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

Mid-week, a few scattered areas received heavy rains (>1") while others received only .2-.4 inches. Late planted corn is suffering and will probably produce only one-third of expected yield. Pastures and hayfields are in dire need of soaking rains. Livestock producers are feeding hay extremely early, and seeking to buy hay to cover fall and winter feeding needs. Some are selling off animals early to reduce drain on hay reserves. Vegetable crops that were not irrigated are suffering quite a bit as well. One sweet corn and snap bean grower reported yields less than half of last year's.

WASHINGTON (Phil Blevins)

Springs are going dry in several places in the county.